

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An imageable element comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - an underlayer over the substrate;
 - a top layer over the underlayer;
 - in which:
 - the element comprises a photothermal conversion material;
 - the top layer is substantially free of the photothermal conversion material;
 - the top layer is ink receptive;
 - before thermal imaging, the top layer is not removable by an alkaline developer;
 - after thermal imaging to form imaged regions in the top layer, the imaged regions are removable by the alkaline developer;
 - the top layer comprises a binder and an ionic liquid;
 - the binder is selected from the group consisting of poly(methyl methacrylate); copolymers of methyl methacrylate with other acrylate or methacrylate monomers; polystyrene; copolymers of styrene with acrylate and methacrylate monomers; polyesters, polyamides, polyureas, polyurethanes, epoxy resins, and combinations thereof;~~and~~
 - the underlayer is removable by the alkaline developer; and
 - the ionic liquid has a melting point less than 50°C.
2. (Currently Amended) The imageable element of claim 1 in which the binder is selected from the group consisting of poly(methyl methacrylate); copolymers of methyl

~~methacrylate with other acrylate or methacrylate monomers; acrylic and methacrylic polymers and copolymers, polystyrene; and copolymers of styrene with acrylate and methacrylate monomers.~~

3. (Original) The element of claim 2 in which the binder is poly(methyl methacrylate).

4. (Original) The element of claim 3 in which the ionic liquid comprises an imidazolium cation.

5. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~3~~2 in which the underlayer comprises the photothermal conversion material.

6. (Original) The element of claim 3 in which:

the element additionally comprises an absorber layer between the underlayer and the top layer; and

the absorber layer comprises the photothermal conversion material.

7. (Original) The element of claim 1 in which the top layer comprises about 1 wt% to about 20 wt% of the ionic liquid, based on the dry weight of the top layer.

8. (Original) The element of claim 7 in which the binder is poly(methyl methacrylate).

9. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~8~~4 in which the ionic liquid has a melting point of less than ~~70°C~~ 20°C.

10. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~8~~11 in which the ionic liquid has a melting point of less than ~~50°C~~ 20°C.

11. (Original) The element of claim 1 in which the ionic liquid comprises a cation selected from the group consisting of imidazolium cations, pyridinium cations, pyrrolidinium cations, phosphonium cations, and tetralkylammonium cations.

12. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~11~~ 13 in which the ionic liquid comprises an imidazolium cation.

13. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~12~~ 14 in which the binder is poly(methyl methacrylate).

14. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~1~~ 5 in which the ionic liquid has a melting point of less than ~~70°C~~ 20°C.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for forming an image, the method comprising the steps of:

a) thermally imaging an imageable element and forming an imaged imageable element comprising imaged and complementary unimaged regions;

the imageable element comprising:

a substrate;

an underlayer over the substrate;

a top layer over the underlayer;

in which:

the element comprises a photothermal conversion material;

the top layer is substantially free of the photothermal conversion material;

the top layer is ink receptive;

before thermal imaging, the top layer is not removable by an alkaline developer;

after thermal imaging to form imaged regions in the top layer, the imaged regions are removable by the alkaline developer;

the top layer comprises a binder and an ionic liquid;

the binder is selected from the group consisting of poly(methyl methacrylate); copolymers of methyl methacrylate with other acrylate or methacrylate monomers; polystyrene; copolymers of styrene with acrylate and methacrylate monomers; polyesters, polyamides, polyureas, polyurethanes, epoxy resins, and combinations thereof; ~~and~~

the underlayer is removable by the alkaline developer; and

the ionic liquid has a melting point less than 50°C; and

b) developing the imaged imageable element with the alkaline developer and removing the imaged regions without substantially affecting the unimaged regions.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which the binder is poly(methyl methacrylate).

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the alkaline developer is an aqueous alkaline developer.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the alkaline developer is a solvent based developer.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 in which the ionic liquid has a melting point of less than ~~70°C~~ 20°C.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 in which the ionic liquid comprises an imidazolium cation.

21. (New) The element of claim 1 in which the ionic liquid has a melting point of less than 0°C.

22. (New) The method of claim 15 in which the ionic liquid has a melting point of less than 0°C.

23. (New) The element of claim 3 in which the ionic liquid has a melting point of less than 0°C.

24. (New) The method of claim 15 in which the binder is selected from the group

consisting of poly(methyl methacrylate); copolymers of methyl methacrylate with other acrylate or methacrylate monomers; polystyrene; and copolymers of styrene with acrylate and methacrylate monomers.